

**League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Board Meeting Minutes**

May 11, 2021 | 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

Board members attending: Susan Clapham, Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Dana Desnoyers Irene Flint, Ellen Gibbs, Ellen Hallett, Erry Johnson, Ann-Mara Lanza, Ann Rappaport, Tanya Roy, Anne Rippey Turtle, Jenny Zannetos. Members attending: Marguerite Chatelier, Wendy Garber, Bonny Nothorn, Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Co-president Susan Clapham. A quorum was present.

1. Minutes of April 13, 2021

Corrections were made to the Treasurer's Update as follows: 1) the amount of gross receipts from the Meatless Monday Fundraiser was corrected to read "\$10,425.68", and the \$1500 donation from Roche Bros. was corrected to read "a portion of which (\$1200)" [was used to pay for the town election post card."] Under Voter Service (4a) replace the first sentence with, "The Town Government Handbook PDF was distributed to Town Meeting members and printed copies were made available to elected officials." Under #7 rephrase the last sentence to read "...the Legislative Update keeps members current with pending legislation." A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 13, 2021 minutes as amended. The motion carried.

VOTED: To approve the April 13, 2021 minutes as amended.

2. Treasurer's Update – Jenny

LWVW has been awarded \$300 Scharfman grant for expenses associated with the election post card. Total assets as of April 30, 2021 are \$30, 222.78. Expenses and income during the last month were reviewed.

3. Co-presidents Update – Susan and Laura

- a) May 19 Annual Meeting - The draft meeting schedule was adjusted to allow more time for discussion during "Directions to the Board" by slightly reducing the time allotted to the Actionable Items and Annual Reports sections. Annual Reports section will feature: Voter Service, Legislative Envoy, Membership and Publicity/Marketing only. The Housing Study recommendations will be presented at the Directions to the Board discussion and the LWVMA "Catalyst Award" to WHS for "extraordinary participation" in their 2021 "Democracy Challenge" video contest will be acknowledged during the introduction.
- b) June 8 Board Meeting – Agenda items for the June meeting were identified including: adoption of the Non-partisanship Policy, appointment of a board member to the Nominating Committee, the delegation of Presidential Authority, setting a date for summer retreat and discussion of ideas for the Opening Meeting.
- c) June 19 MetroWest Meeting – Further information will be forthcoming.
- d) June 26 – LWVMA Convention – The convention will be held via Zoom. Detailed information is on the LWVMA website. LWVW is allowed 5 delegates.
- e) WHS Book Awards – We have four books that can be used this year from last year's canceled event. The virtual Senior Awards Ceremony is scheduled for June 1, and the virtual Underclass Awards Ceremony will be held on June 15.

- f) Membership Directory - Laura suggested creating a small group to update the Membership Directory, e.g., include DEI statement, re-order the Social Policy section, review the introductory text. Susan, Marguerite and Irene offered to help.

4. Program/Calendar – Ann-Mara & Irene

- a) May 14 – Zoom Coffee with Marybeth Martello, the Wellesley’s Sustainable Energy Director. She will discuss the town Climate Action Plan (CAP) process
It was suggested that this could be an Opening Meeting topic in fall.

5. Voter Service – Erry & Dana

- a) Educational Videos Working Group: This group is focused on exploring the possibility of creating short educational videos to inform residents about Town boards, departments and local officials. It would feature interviews with local elected officials and Town administrators and would highlight key town departments. Erry, Lucy, Ellen Gibbs and Trisha Glass are working on this project and will meet with Wellesley Media to discuss producing a set of short videos.

Planning for FY2021-22:

- b) Oct. 25/26 – Special Town Meeting(s). Voter Service will plan Town Meeting Prep Sessions.
- c) Dec. 1, 2021 – How To Run for Local Public Office. This event will likely be via Zoom. KC Kato will make available applications to run for office on the same day.
- d) Dec. 7, 2021 – A debt exclusion vote relating to school projects is tentatively planned. LWVW may want to organize an educational forum on this issue. It was noted that LWVW has Local Program position on education that would support fiscally responsible funding for schools.
- e) Feb. 10, 2022 Meet the Candidates Night (MTCN). The Town Elections are scheduled for March 1, 2022. The MTCN date reflects the possibility that early voting may well be permitted. The decision about the event venue is partly dependent on health-related restrictions that may be in force at the time. Members noted that the census may cause changes to the town precinct map affecting town meeting members and possibly polling places. Likewise, the question of publishing the Election Guide remains uncertain at this time. Erry expressed her support of mailing a town election informational post card to Wellesley households as was done last year. It was suggested that LWVW seek private sponsorship for the post card project to help defray the costs involved, e.g., real estate companies may be interested in underwriting the project in exchange for the publicity.

6. Legislative Envoy – Tanya Roy

- a) VOTES Act: Today was a lobby day to support the passage of the VOTES Act. This Act would make permanent multiple voting measures including: mail-in voting, pre-paid postage for applications and ballots as well as a local option for advance processing of early voting. It is sponsored by our state Senator, Cynthia Creem, and has significant support in both the House and Senate. LWVMA is a part of a coalition of organizations endorsing passage of the bill.
- b) LWVMA Legislative Action Committee: The list of bills the Legislative Specialist will focus on in 2021-22 is noted on the [LWVMA website](#). More may be added as the Committee continues to review proposed bills.

- c) Mass. State Budget: The FY22 budget process is ongoing. Revenues this year are ahead of expectations and the Senate version has no increase in state taxes. A budget debate is scheduled for May 25, after which the bill will go to conference.

7. Newsletter/Website – Ann R.

Ann reported that the monthly newsletter is regularly opened by recipients about 50 % of the time. The number of hits to the LWVW website spiked around the time of the town and national elections. Only 40 people have requested access to the Members Only section of the LWVW website.

8. Membership – Anne T.

There have been no new members since April. Ann has sent LWVW information to several interested people. LWVW membership is up-to-date on dues. Ann has moved to neighboring Auburndale, but will remain a member of LWVW. She will meet with Director of Membership nominee, Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, to assure a smooth transition.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Hallett
Secretary